

Similarly, designation of a sequence as "artificial" should not be construed as a representation that the sequence has no association with any organism. For example, a primer or probe may be designated as "artificial" even though it is necessarily complementary to some target sequence, which may occur in nature. Or an "artificial" sequence may be a substitution mutant of a natural sequence, or a chimera of two or more natural sequences, or a cDNA (i.e., intron-free sequence) corresponding to an intron-containing gene, or otherwise a fragment of a natural sequence.

The Examiner should be able to judge the relationship of the enumerated sequences to natural sequences by giving full consideration to the specification, the art cited therein, any further art cited in an IDS, and the results of his or her sequence search against a database containing known natural sequences.

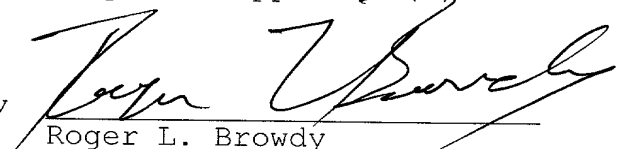
Applicants submit that the present application contains patentable subject matter and therefore urge the examiner to pass the case to issuance.

If the examiner has any questions or comments concerning the above-described application, the examiner is urged to contact the undersigned at the phone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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